

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR FORWARDING DATA ON MULTIPLE
LABEL-SWITCHED DATA PATHS

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 An apparatus and method for forwarding data on a network are described. A
label-switching subnetwork within the network includes an ingress node and an egress
node coupled to source and destination nodes, respectively, on the network. The
1 ingress node sends a signal along a route within the subnetwork through a plurality of
subnetwork nodes to the egress node. In response, the subnetwork nodes transmit
response signals back along the route toward the ingress node which define the route
through the subnetwork and simultaneously allocate a plurality of paths within the
route. A single path can be selected for forwarding of data packets associated with a
source/destination pair, ensuring that data packets arriving at the destination are not
misaligned.

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